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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/492,081	01/27/2000	Naruhiko Kasai	501.38087X00	9426

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EXAMINER

EL HADY, NABIL M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

28

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/492,081

Applicant(s)

KASAI ET AL.

Examiner

Nabil M El-Hady

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 2 -18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A. The following phrases are not clearly understood:

a) "input data repeater", claim 2, line 4, and claim 3, line 18, it is not clear if an input data repeater is meant to represent part of the function of a communication data interfacing unit, specially "input data repeater" is not apparently mentioned in the specification;

b) "a computer which is supplied inputs to said input data interfacing unit(s) to a computer carrying out inputting/outputting from/to this communication data interfacing unit" claim 2, lines 7-10, claim 3, lines 21-24, the meaning is not clearly understood.

c) "a communication data repeater", claim 8, line 2, claim 9, line 2, and claim 10, line 2, it is not clear if a communication data repeater is meant to represent part of the function of a communication data interfacing unit, specially "input communication repeater" is not apparently mentioned in the specification;

d) "an image data repeater", claim 14, line 2, it is not clear if an image data repeater is meant to represent part of the function of a communication data interfacing unit, specially "image data repeater" is not apparently mentioned in the specification;

B. The following terms lack antecedent basis:

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a) "first said communication data interfacing unit", claim 8, line 6; claim 9, line 6; and claim 10, line 6.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gurley (US 5,036,315).

6. As to claim 1, Gurley discloses the invention as claimed including a monitor device for displaying output images of a plurality of computers (Fig. 1; and col. 6, lines 5-6,15-18), comprising: a plurality of display data interfacing units (inherent in VIEDEO INTERFACE MODULE VIM 90, Fig. 1) for entering display data from individual computers (HC 10 and SWMC 80, Fig. 1); a plurality of communication data interfacing units for carrying out inputting/outputting of communication data between individual computers (PERIPHERAL INTERFACE MODULE PIM 40, 70, Fig. 1); a superposed display unit for superposed displaying of two or more images represented by display data entered into two or more of said display data interfacing units (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in MONITOR 100, Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 15-16; and col. 8, lines 20-22); and a display controller (DISPLAY CONTROLLER DC 30, Fig. 1) for altering the form of the superposed displaying on the basis of communication data for instructing alteration in said form of superposed displaying, entered into said communication data interfacing units (col. 5, lines 40-48; and col. 9, lines 11-17).

7. As to claim 2, Gurley discloses one or more input data interfacing units for entering input data from an input device (col. 4, lines 34-36; and col. 6, lines 6-9); and an input data repeater for supplying from one communication data interfacing unit to be dynamically selected out of said plurality of communication data

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interfacing units input data to be entered into a computer which is supplied inputs to said input data interfacing unit (s) to a computer carrying out inputting/outputting from/to this communication data interfacing unit (50, 60, PIM's 40, 70, Fig. 1).

8. As to claim 3, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 2 above. In addition, Gurley discloses a monitor device for displaying output images of a plurality of computers (Fig. 1; and col. 6, lines 5-6, 15-18), comprising: a plurality of display data interfacing units (VIDEO INTERFACE MODULE VIM 90, Fig. 1) for entering display data from individual computers; a plurality of communication data interfacing units for inputting/outputting communication data between individual computers (PERIPHERAL INTERFACE MODULE PIM 40, 70, Fig. 1); one or more input data interfacing units for entering input data from an input device (col. 4, lines 34-36; and col. 6, lines 6-9); a superposed display unit for superposed displaying of two or more images represented by display data entered into two or more of said display data interfacing units (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in MONITOR 100, Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 15-16; and col. 8, lines 20-22); a display controller (DISPLAY CONTROLLER DC 30, Fig. 1) for altering the form of the superposed displaying on the basis of communication data for instructing alteration in said form of superposed displaying, entered into said input data interfacing units (col. 5, lines 40-48; and col. 9, lines 11-17); and an input data repeater for supplying from one communication data interfacing unit to be dynamically selected out of said plurality of communication data interfacing units input data to be entered into a computer which has entered inputs into said input data interfacing unit (s) to a computer carrying out inputting/ outputting from/to this communication data interfacing unit (50, 60, PIM's 40, 70, Fig. 1).

9. As to claims 4 and 5, Gurley discloses said display controller (DISPLAY CONTROLLER DC 30, Fig. 1) alters the display characteristics of the monitor device on the basis of communication data instructing the alteration of the display characteristics of the monitor device entered into said communication data interfacing unit (col. 5, lines 40-48; and col. 6, lines 21-25) .

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10. As to claims 6 and 7, Gurley discloses said display controller (DISPLAY CONTROLLER DC 30, Fig. 1) alters the display characteristics of the monitor device on the basis of communication data instructing the alteration of the display characteristics of the monitor device entered into said input data interfacing unit (col. 9, lines 11-17).

11. As to claims 8-10, Gurley discloses a communication data repeater for supplying, from a second communication data interfacing unit to a second computer, communication data, entered from a first computer carrying out inputting/outputting of communication data from/to first said communication data interfacing unit into first said communication data interfacing unit and destined for the second computer carrying out inputting/outputting of communication data from/to second said communication data interfacing unit (inherent in col. 4, lines 7-9, 34-36, 67-68; and col. 5, lines 1-2).

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gurley (US 5,036,315).

14. As to claims 11-13, Gurley does not disclose an image data input interfacing unit for entering image data from a camera to be displayed on the said superposed display unit. Official notice is taken that an image data input interfacing unit to input data from a camera to a monitor is not new in the art. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use as source of image data a camera in the same way as the plurality of computers are used in Gurley's system. This would provide more flexibility and

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advanced functionality to the system of Gurley where it is possible to display on the same window different image data from different image data sources including a camera.

15. As to claim 14, Gurley discloses an image data repeater for supplying, from one communication data interfacing unit to be dynamically selected out of said plurality of communication data interfacing units, input data entered into said image data interfacing unit(s) to the computer carrying out inputting/ outputting from/to this communication data interfacing unit (col. 4, lines 50-67).

16. As to claim 15, Gurley discloses said superposed display unit displays, as said superposed display, an image frame represented by display data entered into a second display data interfacing unit in a window within an image frame represented by display data entered into a first display data interfacing unit (col. 4, lines 50-67), and said display controller alters, as alterations of said form of superposed display, the position and size of the window in which to display an image frame represented by display data entered into the second said display data interfacing unit (col. 5, lines 40-48; and col. 9, lines 11-17).

17. Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gurley (US 5,036,315) in view of veil et al. (US 6,0892,202), hereafter "Veil".

18. As to claims 16-20, Gurley does not necessarily disclose said communication data interfacing unit performs outputting/inputting of communication data using a universal serial bus (USB). Veit, on the other hand, discloses using a universal serial bus (USB) in performing outputting/inputting of communication data (430, Fig. 6) with plurality of computers (442, Fig. 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Gurley and Veit because Veit's use of UBS would enhance Gurely's system by providing it with most advanced communication interface.

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Shape, Jr. Et al. (US 5,903,455) ; Kao et al. (US 5,901,067); Acres et al. (US 5,836,817); Matsuzaki et al. (US 2002/0067318) ; Endres et al. (US 6,104,359) ; Daily et al. (US 6,198,462); Bronson (US 5,305,435); Reichlen (US 6,061,064); Barone et al. (US 5,315,711); Orton et al. (US 5,973,702); and DeStefano (US 6,075,531).

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nabil M El-Hady whose telephone number is (703) 308-7990. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 13, 2004



Nabil El-Hady, Ph.D, M.B.A.
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2154